

To our colleagues in the practice and academic communities:

The purpose of this first of our regular inserts to *Public Health Reports* is to introduce the Association to the journal's readers and to explain our desire to participate with the Public Health Service in the publication of *PHR*. Although the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH) does not publish its own journal, it has established a vision for the type of publication of which it would like to be a part. One priority for the schools has been participation in a publication that would meet the information needs of the practice community and, hence, would be read by it. *PHR* is written with the practice community in mind and in a style that facilitates information acquisition and understanding.

In the winter of 1996, the association was approached by Dr. Anthony Robbins, the current editor of *PHR*, with exciting new ideas for the journal and a request for the ASPH to participate in its publication. In May of 1997, a cooperative agreement was signed between ASPH and the Department of Health and Human Services, establishing a new venture with the hope that our combined resources would better serve the information needs of public health practice, both in communities and within the schools. Through this relationship, ASPH will encourage the faculty, staff, and students of each school to publish material that is immediately relevant to public health practice.

Through our cooperative agreement, the Public Health Service will retain responsibility for the editorship of the journal and ASPH will oversee its publication. The ASPH has established an advisory board of noted practice investigators to assist it with its publication responsibilities. Dr. Michael Maetz of the University of Alabama – Birmingham School of Public Health will chair this group. Board members represent the varied fields of public health activity, including chronic and infectious disease, biostatistics, environmental and occupational health, behavioral science, health education and health promotion, health administration, health policy, maternal and child health, aging, international health, and minority health.

As noted above, each issue of *PHR* will include an ASPH insert that has two functions. The first part of the insert will be a statement by the President or Executive Director of ASPH regarding the activities of the Association and how they relate to practice. The function of the second part of the insert is to provide a commentary on an issue related to ongoing research or service activity in one or more of the schools of public health. Hence, both functions have the goal of relating the work of faculty and others associated with the schools of public health to the practice community, the primary readership of *PHR*.

ASPH is excited by this new opportunity to serve the practice community and hopes that it can add to the 120-year tradition of *PHR*.

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Allen Rosenfield, MD  
Immediate Past-President, ASPH

Richard S. Kurz, PhD  
Chair, ASPH Publications Committee

# ASPH

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